

These additional comments for the FCC are in opposition of MB Docket No. 11-169, In the Matter of Basic Service Tier Encryption.

Some of the comments filed cite the 99.5% remote disconnect rate for Cable Vision but fail to provide a hard number for service activations done remotely. From a consumer's perspective, the 99.5% disconnect rate is really unimportant. This number is cited as if it were reducing the burden on the consumer waiting for a technician. I have had my service disconnected a few times over the last 20 years and I have never had to wait for a technician to accomplish it. Service disconnects have been and still are at the convenience of the cable company, not the consumer. I believe that only citing "a steadily growing number of households eligible for remote service activation" does not provide a compelling argument that the consumer benefits from basic tier encryption. I believe that truck rolls are reduced for the disconnection but any environmental benefit is negated by the need for the consumer to drive, or mail, their equipment back to the cable company.

Another filing points out that cable companies must pay for some of the basic tier programming they provide by paying retransmission consent fees. As a consumer that pays for cable service I must ask, what am I paying for? I live in an area where I am unable to receive all of the OTA channels that I would like to receive. I understand that, in order to receive these channels, I must pay for cable service.

Service theft of the basic tier by internet only customers is another widely discussed topic. One filing states that there are no commercially available traps to prevent this theft. Another filing puts a dollar amount on the cost of the traps and goes on to provide a physical description of the trap citing the weight and size of the trap. Some filings accuse Boxee of designing a device that relied upon the ban on encryption. In this case, it seems that cable operators designed a cable plant that relied upon the ban on encryption being lifted, allowing the cable companies to use service theft as an argument for lifting the ban. I must state that I am not a customer of Boxee.

In the event that you do decide to lift the ban on basic tier encryption, I would urge you to require that the set top boxes provide video at the native resolution that the cable company receives it. It should additionally provide audio in the native format.

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